

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08555 081148Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SES-02 SAA-01
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SSM-03 GSA-02 /097 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 224

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCEUR

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 8555

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, IR

SUBJ: IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW FOLLOWS DAY-LONG DEFIANCE
OF GOVERNMENT

1. GOI ANNOUNCED SEPT 6 THAT DEMONSTRATIONS AND LARGE
PUBLIC GATHERING COULD NOT BE HELD WITHOUT OFFICIAL PER-
MISSION. ANNOUNCEMENT WAS INTENDED TO HEAD OFF ANTICIPATED
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 08555 081148Z

LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS SEPT 7 TO MARK SEVENTH DAY OF MOURNING
FOR PERSONS KILLED IN CALSH PREVIOUS WEEK IN TEHRAN.
VARIOUS AYATOLLAHS AND POLITICAL LEADERS ISSUED CON-
FLICTING ADVISE TO GATHER OR NOT TO GATHER AND SOME
CALLED FOR GENERAL STRIKE. IT WAS CLEAR FROM THESE
REPORTS THAT GOVERNMENT HAD WON OVER SOME IMPORTANT
AYATOLLAHS IN EFFORT TO COOL SITUATION BUT THAT MANY

OTHERS WERE INTENT ON DEFYING GOVERNMENT'S BAN.

2. AT LEAST THREE LARGE MARCHES, TOTALING BETWEEN 50 - 1000,000 PERSONS, TOOK PLACE SEPT 7 MOVING TO AND FRO IN VARIOUS PARTS OF CITY. MARCHES WERE VERY WELL ORGANIZED WITH PHALANXES OF YOUNG MOTORCYCLISTS TO CLEAR THE STREETS AND REDIRECT TRAFFIC (DONE WITH POLITENESS BUT FIRMNESS WHEN SOME AMERICANS DROVE UP TO ROUTE OF MARCH), ACCOMPANYING MARSHALLS, WATER AND FOOD TRUCKS, ETC. MANY OF THE SOLOGANS AND PLACARDS WERE STRONGLY ANTI-SHAH AND ANTI-FOREIGN; (E.G., "DEATH TO PAHLAVI DYNASTY," "HAIL KHOMEINI," "SUPPORT OUR PALESTINIAN BROTHERS," "ISLAMIC NATION CANNOT HAVE MONARCHY," "AMERICAN GO HOME") POLICE AND MILITARY UNITS WERE GENERALLY RESTRAINED, ALTHOUGH TEAR GAS WAS USED IN ISOLATED INSTANCES AND SHOTS WERE FIRED IN THE AIR. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES.

3. FACED WITH THIS OVERT DEFIANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT RULING ON DEMONSTRATION, THE CABINET MET NIGHT OF SEPT 7 AND MARTIAL LAW WAS ANNOUNCED AT 6:00 A.M. SEPT 8. GATHERING ON PUBLIC STREETS WERE BANNED AND A CURFEW ESTABLISHED FROM 8 PM TO 5 AM FOR SIX MONTHS.

4. EARLY REPORTS INDICATE THAT A LARGE CROWD
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PAGE 03 TEHRAN 08555 081148Z

GATHERED IN JALEH SQUARE (NEAR MAJLES) IN SOUTH TEHRAN AND REFUSED APPEAL OF AYATOLLAH NOURI TO DISPERSE. CROED, ACCORDING TO RADIO PRESS TICKERS, VANCED ON SECURITY FORCES ATTEMPTING TO DISARM THEM. TROOPS OPENED FIRE AND "MANY WERE KILLED AND WOUNDED." ONE SECURITY OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED US THAT THERE ARE A FEW OTHERS POCKETS OF DEMONSTRATIONS: "THEY WILL BE SEVERELY DEALT WITH." WE ALSO HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF ARSON IN SOUTH TEHRAN. OBSERVATIONS BY EMBASSY OFFICERS THROUGHOUT TEHRAN INDICATE THAT, WITH EXCEPTION OF MILITARY CONCENTRATION NEAR MAJLES, TROOP DISPOSITION ELSEWHERE ARE DISCREET, WITH LIMITED NUMBER OF TANKS AND PERSONNEL CARRIERS CONTROLLING KEY INTERSECTIONS AND APPROACHES TO IMPERIAL PALACES. CONSULS IN TABRIZ, ISFAHAN AND SHIRAZ REPORT ALL QUIET IN THOSE CITIES.

5. ACCORDING TO AP TICKER REPORT, SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS APPROACHED SHAH EARLIER THIS WEEK TO INFORM HIM THAT "THEY CAN NO LONGER STAND THE LEFTISTS AND ISLAMIC GROUPS PROVOCATIONS." WE CANNOT CONFIRM THIS REPORT BUT DURING LAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING

RUMORS OF INCREASING MILITARY UNEASINESS WITH GOVERN-
MENT'S FAILURE TO END DEMONSTRATIONS. THE SHAH AL-
LEGEDLY ADVISED MILITARY TO CONSULT WITH PRIME MINISTER
AND SEPT 7 CABINET MEETING WAS THE REPORTED RESULT.
SULLIVAN

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